

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1370

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION designating Union County as "The Cradle of Country Music".

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the history and contributions of Union County and is grateful for the positive impact the county has had on the State's musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, many eminent Union Countians have contributed significantly to the art of country music and its constant popularity with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, these inspirational artists epitomize creative spirit and commitment to this State's cultural heritage and truly serve as exemplary ambassadors for Union County and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the pantheon of country music artists who hail from Union County include: present-day superstar, Kenny Chesney; the late Carl Smith; Lois Johnson; legendary guitarist, the late Chet Atkins; and the universally acclaimed "King of Country Music," the late Roy Acuff; and

WHEREAS, possessing the rare ability to connect with fans on a personal level with his likeable, average-guy persona, Kenny Chesney is also one of the most popular touring acts in country music, regularly selling out every venue, and his 2007 Flip-Flop Summer Tour was the highest-grossing country tour of the year; and

WHEREAS, one of country music's first television stars, Carl Smith had fifty-eight consecutive Top 40 hits on the *Billboard* Country Chart from 1951 to 1965, the first twenty-one of which reached the Top 10; and

WHEREAS, possessing a pure and passionate voice, Lois Johnson has recorded numerous records, including her noteworthy duets with renowned country singer Hank Williams, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Chet Atkins was an extraordinarily gifted musician and a major positive factor in the country music industry for many years; his accomplishments as a guitarist and as an executive with RCA Records established an indelible place for him in the history of modern music; and

WHEREAS, throughout his innovative and incredible career, Roy Acuff garnered innumerable awards and honors, including being named to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1962, receiving the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987, and earning the National Medal of Arts Award in 1991; and

WHEREAS, because of these five supremely gifted musicians and singers and many more, Union County should be appropriately recognized for its instrumental role in the birth and the growth and prosperity of modern country music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that Union County, Tennessee is hereby designated "The Cradle of Country Music".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.